

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**Please delete the first full paragraph on page 4 under [0009] and replace it with the following new paragraph:**

That is, the aforementioned object is achieved by:

a magnetic recording medium comprising a magnetic layer comprising a ferromagnetic powder and a binder on one surface of a nonmagnetic support and a backcoat layer comprising a nonmagnetic powder and a binder on the other surface of the nonmagnetic support, wherein

said nonmagnetic powder is an acicular particle having a mean particle diameter ranging from 5 to 300 nm, and

said backcoat layer comprises water-soluble cations in a quantity equal to or less than 100 ppm and water-soluble anions in a quantity equal to or less than 150 ~~nm~~ ppm.

**Please replace the Abstract with the Abstract on the sheet attached hereto:**